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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 17, 1865.—Laid on table and ordered to be printed.

[By the Chair.]

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 15, 1865.

To the House of Representatives:

In response to your resolution of 24th December last. I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War; which conveys the information requested, relative to the number of iron furnaces and forges worked by agents of the government or by contractors, during the year 1864, and to the cost per ton of the several kinds of iron furnished by them.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY OF WAR.

War Department, C. S. A.
Richmond, Feb. 14, 1865.

To the President of the Confederate States:

Sir:

I have received the following resolution of the House of Representatives, referred by your Excellency to this Department:

"Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested to inform this House—

1st. As to the number of iron furnaces and forges worked, in the year 1864, by officers and agents of the government and on government account.

2d. As to the cost per ton of pig, bloom and bar iron, respectively, at such furnaces and forges.

3d. As to the number of iron furnaces and forges worked in the same time by the proprietors, under contract with the government, and the different kinds of contract so made.

4th. As to the cost per ton of pig, bloom and bar iron delivered to the government under such contracts."

In response, I have the honor to transmit herewith, a report from the Chief of the Nitre and Mining Bureau, containing the information called for by the House.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War.

REPORT OF CHIEF OF NITRE AND MINING BUREAU.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
NITRE AND MINING BUREAU,
Richmond, Va., Jan. 31, 1865.

HON. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

SIR:

In reply to the enclosed resolution of enquiry, I have the honor to state—

1st. Seven (7) iron furnaces and one (1) forge were worked, in the year 1864, by officers and agents of the government and on government account, under the direction of this Bureau, viz: three (3) furnaces in Virginia, two (2) furnaces in Alabama, with one rolling mill, and the usual complement of puddling and heating fires: and in the Trans-Mississippi, two (2) furnaces and two (2) forges.

2d. The "cost per ton of pig, bloom and bar iron, respectively, at such furnaces and forges," is given, as closely as can now be ascertained, in the enclosed tabulated statement A, in Virginia, with precision; from Alabama, by telegraph, and probably approximately; from the Trans-Mississippi, accounts have not yet been received.

It will be noted that the Virginia furnaces have been worked with all the interruptions of war—from the actual presence of the enemy to the impressment of supplies by our own forces. In Alabama the government furnaces have been worked in an abundant country, and almost with peace regularity.

3d. The number of iron furnaces and forges worked in the same time by the proprietors, under contract, are given in statement B. The different forms of contract so made are indicated by the general forms C and D, used by the Bureau: the first, where advances of government funds have been made to contractors, and the last, where not. More precise information can only be given, by submitting the contracts in bulk.

It is proper here to state, that to stimulate production by private interest, and to throw upon the market an additional quantity of iron for agriculture and the rail roads, the Bureau policy has been to require from each furnace only so much iron as the military requisitions exact—ranging from fifty (50) per cent. where no government advance has been made, to eighty-three (83) per cent. where advances have been made. Very urgent ordnance wants occasionally compel a departure from this rule.

4th. The cost per ton of pig, bloom and bar iron delivered to the government under such contracts, can only be given from the price paid by the government for such deliveries, as stated in statement E.

Very respectfully,

I. M. ST. JOHN,
Col. & Chief of Bureau.

[A,]

Furnaces worked by the Government in 1864.

NAME.	STATE.	Average cost of provisions, &c.*			Cost of iron per ton.		REMARKS.
		Meat, per lb.	Corn, per bushel.	Negro hire.	Including rental and deterioration of property.	Exclusive of rental and deterioration of property	
California, - -	Virginia.	$3 00	$5 00	$400	$306 82	$245 00	These furnaces were worked conjointly, and with many interruptions, the force being driven on during Hunter's raid. Serious difficulties were also experienced from seizure of furnace supplies by the cavalry.
Lucy Salina, - -	Do.	3 00	5 00	100	306 82	245 00	
Westham, - -	Do.	3 00	5 00	400	504 00	408 00	Worked as a military necessity. Iron particularly adapted to manufacture of rifle shell. Ore and limestone brought 180 miles by canal to the furnace.
Bibb (2), - -	Alabama.	1 25	3 35	350	–	125 00	An interior locality, in an abundant country, and work undisturbed by the enemy. The details of cost have not been received. The amount telegraphed is approximate, and does not include a per centage for deterioration of property or rental.
Briarfield (rolling mill), -	Do.	1 25	3 35	350	–	815 00	Bar iron. The same remark, as to approximate cost, with the above, applies to these works.
Marion, - -	Texas,	–	–	–	–	–	No report of cost to date
Davis, - -	Do	–	–	–	–	–	No report of cost to date.

Forges worked by government—none.

* Price of provisions taken from commissione s' rates, and intended for comparison only.

[B.]

Names of Proprietors of Furnaces operated in 1864.

CONTRACTORS.	NAME OF WORKS.	NO.	COUNTY.	STATE.	REMARKS.
D. & H. Forrer,	Shenandoah Iron Works,	1	Page,	Virginia,	Interrupted by enrolling officer.
Lewis, Crawford & Co.	Mount Vernon Furnace,	1	Augusta,	"	Destroyed by enemy.
Burke & Kunkle,	Esteline "	1	"	"	
D. & H Forrer,	Elizabeth "	1	"	"	Destroyed by enemy, but rebuilt.
J. D. & A. Brooks,	Mount Tory "	1	"	"	Do. do.
Scott & Welford,	Catherine "	1	Spotsylvania,	"	Do. do. but rebuilt.
B. P. Newman,	Liberty "	1	Shenandoah,	"	
J. R. Anderson & Co.	Columbia "	1	"	"	Destroyed by enemy.
Do.	Grace "	1	Botetourt,	"	Do. do.
Do.	Cloverdale "	1	"	"	Do. do.
Do.	Catawba "	1	"	"	Do. do.
Do.	Glenwood "	1	Rockbridge.	"	
Victoria Mining and Manufacturing Company,	Victoria "	1	Louisa,	"	Destroyed by enemy, but rebuilt.
S. F. Jordan,	Amherst "	1	Amherst,	"	New and very fine.
—— Boyd,	Arcadia "	1	Botetourt,	"	Will not operate.
A. Thomas & Son,	Marion "	1	Smyth,	"	Destroyed by enemy.
J. W. Green & Co.	Mount Hope "	1	Wythe,	"	Safe and good for a small quantity.
D. Graham & Son,	Barren Spring "	1	"	"	Do. do.
Barksdale, Stovall & Co.	Union "	1	Patrick,	"	Safe and good for a fine yield.
J. H. Buford & Co.	Grey Eagle "	1	Wythe,	"	Do. do.
	Total,	20			

C. B. Mallett & Co.	Ocknock Furnace,	1	Chatham,	N. Carolina,	New and good.
J. A. Jones, President,	Marotook M. and M. Company,	1	Stokes,	"	New and good.
Hoyt, Washington & Co.	Sapona Iron Works,	1	Chatham,	"	Old, but iron first class.
C. R. Croland & Co.	Stonewall Furnace,	1	"	"	Small.
S. R. Oates,	Vesuvius "	1	Lincoln,	"	Small.
	Total,	5			
—— Cameron, President,	Magnetic Iron Works,	1	Union District,	S. Carolina.	
Major R. V. Gist, Supervisor,	King's Mountain Iron Works,	1	York "	"	
	Total,	2			
J. B Knight & Co.	Chockolocco Furnace,	1	Talladega,	Alabama.	
Oxford Iron Company,	Oxford Iron Works,	1	Calhoun,	"	
Shelby " "	Shelby " "	1	Shelby,	"	
W. L. Ward & Co.	–	1	Bibb,	"	
W. L. Sanders,	Roopes Valley Iron Works,	1	Jefferson,	"	
W. S. McElwain,	Catawba " "	1	"	"	
S. Clabaugh & Co.	Salt Creek " "	1	Talladega,	"	
Daughdrill & Creigher,	Round Mountain Iron Works.	2	–	"	
Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company,	Red Mountain " "	1	Jefferson,	"	
	Total,	10			
G. W. Smith, President,	Etowah Iron Works,	3	Bartow,	Georgia.	
Dr. Lewis,	–	3	"	"	
Wells, Hightower & Co.	Allatoona Furnace,	1	–	"	
	Total,	7			
Bushong, Betterton & Co.	Bushong Furnace,	1	Sullivan,	Tennessee.	

B—Continued.

Names of Proprietors of Forges operated in 1864.

CONTRACTORS.	NAME OF WORKS.	NO.	COUNTY.	STATE.
James & Scott,	Fox Creek Forge,	1	Grayson,	Virginia.
Wilburn Billings,	New River "	1	"	"
Lee N. Painter,	Pierce's "	1	Wythe,	"
Fredeking & Isom,	Peach Bottom Forge,	1	Grayson,	"
George F. Barton,	Barton's "	1	Smyth,	"
Park & Jones,	Staly Creek "	1	"	"
James, Scott & Co.	Quebec "	1	"	"
William A. Williams,	Liberty "	1	"	"
Lockett & Co.	Cripple Creek "	1	Wythe,	"
G. W. Henderlite,	Stony Creek "	1	Smyth,	"
T. Wilkinson,	Wilkinson's "	1	Carroll,	"
T. Galyear,	Collins "	1	Grayson,	"
Forrer & Cosby,	Mossy Creek "	1	Augusta,	"
Brady & Rex,	Buffalo "	1	Rockbridge,	"
D. & H. Forrer,	Shenandoah "	1	Page,	"
H. H. Propes,	Catherine "	1	"	"
Lewis, Crawford & Co.	Mount Vernon "	1	Augusta,	"
Pugh & Jones,	Fox Creek "	1	Grayson,	"
William Edwards,	New River "	1	"	"
James Galyear,	Peach Bottom "	1	"	"
Painter & Early,	Chadwell "	1	Wythe,	"
Joseph Limeberry,	Limeberry "	1	Carroll,	"
John Bryant,	Do. "	1	"	"
A. Shupe,	Old Liberty "	1	Smyth,	"
John C. Collins,	Collins "	1	Grayson,	"
	Total,	25		
William Williams,	–	1	Catawba,	N. Carolina.
Froneberger & Co.	–	1	Cleaveland,	"
Sheek, Gilliam & Co.	–	1	Surry,	"
R. A. Smith,	–	1	Catawba,	"
Garrett Brothers,	–	1	Gaston,	"
John W. Quinn,	–	1	Cleaveland,	"
D. Falls,	–	1	"	"
W. J. Staton,	–	1	Lincoln,	"
Smith & Paine,	–	1	Catawba,	"
J. Black,	–	1	Cleaveland,	"
Flippen & Dodson,	–	1	Surry,	"
Job Worth,	–	1	"	"
Stephen Hobson,	–	1	–	"
Worth & Hiatt,	–	1	Surry,	"
Henry Snow,	–	1	Yadkin,	"
C. C. Holyfield,	–	1	Surry,	"
Pass & Horton,	–	1	Yadkin,	"
Myers & Brother,	–	1	"	"
Robertson & Dickson,	–	1	"	"
M. Hiatt,	–	1	Surry,	"
Thomas Long,	–	1	Yadkin,	"
Long & Williams,	–	1	"	"
S. H. Thompson,	Little River Forge,	1	Alleghany,	"
Warden, Billings & Edwards,	Elk Creek "	1	"	"
Cox & Bryant,	Do. "	1	"	"
	Total,	25		
W. L. Ward & Co.	–	1	Bibb,	Alabama.
A. F. McGee,	–	1	Jefferson,	"
	Total,	2		

The capacity of the above works is very limited.

[C.]

CONTRACT FOR PIG IRON, WITH W. L. SANDERS.

This contract, made this 23d day of March A. D. 1863, between W. L. Sanders of the first part, and the Confederate States of America, through I. M. St. John, Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Nitre and Mining Bureau, of the second part, witnesseth, that in consideration of the conditions herein after named, the party of the first part covenants and agrees to manufacture and deliver on the cars of the Alabama and Tennessee river rail road, at Montevallo, 4,000 tons pig iron per annum, of which not more than 15 per cent. shall be in No. 3 hot or cold blast iron; not more than 35 per cent. in No. 2 hot or cold blast iron; and the balance to be in No. 1 hot or cold blast iron. The delivery to commence within 10 days after this contract shall have been duly executed, and to be made in nearly equal quarterly installments: the delivery in no one month, however, to fall below 150 tons.

As there is a haul of 18 miles from the works of the party of the first part to the point of delivery, and the roads are liable to be so much broken up by bad weather, so that the party of the first part may not be able to deliver the full amount of 1,000 tons per quarter, it is agreed that any excess of iron delivered in any other quarter shall be credited to the quarter in which he may be deficient: Provided, That in no event he shall fall below the amount stipulated to be delivered per annum.

The iron thus delivered is to be subject to inspection by an officer of the Nitre and Mining Bureau, or an authorized agent thereof, and to be by him weighed and classified as to the quality and grade; according to which payments are to be made. All pig metal shall bear the initials, and the name of the furnace marked upon the pig.

In consideration whereof, the party of the second part agrees to pay to the party of the first part, his agents or assigns, after inspection, proof and approval of said iron, the following prices, subject to modification and reduction, as herein after provided, to wit:

For No.	1	charcoal	cold	blast	pig	iron,	per ton of 2,240 lbs.	$75 00
" "	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	67 50
" "	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	62 50
" "	1	hot	"	"	"	"	"	65 00
" "	2	"	"	"	"	"	"	55 00
" "	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	50 00

All payments for iron delivered shall be made once in each month.

The parties hereto mutually reserve the right, during the existing war with the United States, to modify these prices so as to preserve the same relation between the price of the iron and the cost of the articles necessary to its production, as is established in the above recited scale; and in order to make such modifications with justice to both parties, it is agreed that during the war, when either party shall so desire, a board of assessment shall be convened to review the

above scale of prices: Provided, however, That no such board shall, without mutual consent, be convened prior to the month of January 1864, or more frequently thereafter than once in each year. Said board shall be composed of one member, chosen by the party of the first part; of a second, chosen by the party of the second part; and in case of disagreement of these two, of a third, to be chosen by them: and in lieu of the prices above enumerated, the prices assessed by the board for the different grades of iron, shall be paid by the party of the second part until modified by a subsequent board, or reduced as herein after provided, by the establishment of peace relations with the United States. Such reduction shall not begin until six months after the close of the existing war: Provided, That the price of provisions, labor and forage on the 1st day of January 1863 shall be the basis upon which such modification of prices shall be made.

The original scale of prices above written, subject to the following modification, shall then rule and control the compensation of the party of the first part, viz: 80 per cent. of the above written prices for the ensuing six months; 60 per cent. thereof for the then next ensuing six months; and 50 per cent. thereof until the 1st day of January 1867, when the contract shall expire.

It is expressly agreed by the parties to this instrument, that a reservation of 10 per cent. will be made upon all payments during the first year, and the same per cent. for each subsequent year until the termination of this contract, to reimburse the party of the second part for any advance made to the party of the first part; which reservation or deduction shall be accredited yearly as a reimbursing fund upon the advance made: Provided, That said reservation or deduction of 10 per cent. on gross amount due for iron delivered, shall be sufficient to repay such advance by the 1st day of January 1867. Should it not be sufficient, then a larger per cent. shall be deducted; which per cent. shall be fixed on the 1st day of January of each year for the ensuing 12 months, taking the deliveries of the previous year and the length of time this contract has to run before its termination, as the basis on which such increased deduction shall be made.

It is further agreed by the parties, that any excess in the quantity of pig iron herein named, which the party of the first part may be able to produce in any year during the continuance of this contract, shall be the property of the government, and will be received and paid for at the prices herein before provided in this contract: Provided, That it shall be at the option of the party of the second part to receive such excess: and in case they do not require such excess, then the party of the second part shall give to the party of the first part a notice of 30 days; that after the expiration of said time they will only receive the amount of iron stipulated in this contract as absolute delivery.

To enable the party of the first part to finish the furnace now under construction, it is agreed that the party of the second part shall advance to the party of the first part $50,000, in bonds of the Confederate States of America—one-half on the signing and ratification

of this contract; one-fourth on the requisition of the party of the first part; and the remaining one-fourth, upon a second requisition of the party of the first part: said requisitions to be accompanied by a certificate of an inspecting officer (specially appointed), that the antecedent installments have been judiciously expended for machinery, labor, materials and fixtures essential for the production of the iron hereby contracted for: and to enable the inspecting officer to give such certificate, full information and access to the books of the party of the first part shall be given to the inspecting officer.

It is further agreed, that satisfactory security, in twice the sum of the advance so made, shall be given by the party of the first part to the party of the second part, for the return of the money so advanced, with interest at the rate of eight per cent. per annum, if the advances are made in treasury notes; but if the advances be made in bonds, then the same rate of interest as the bonds bear.

To insure the fulfillment of this contract, it is agreed that the party of the second part shall reserve 10 per cent. on all payments due for iron delivered under this contract until its completion. This reservation of 10 per cent. shall be refunded to the party of the first part, upon a yearly settlement to be had when a balance of interest shall be struck, provided it shall appear that the party of the first part has complied with the provisions of this contract. And it is further expressly provided, that should the party of the first part willfully refuse to make the deliveries to the party of the second part, as stated, or deliver iron to other parties (except by order of a duly authorized agent), or make other disposition of it than provided for in this contract with the Confederate States, or for any other purpose than executing this contract, as above stated, or shall fail to refund the said advances according to the terms and stipulations of this contract, the party of the second part shall have the right to enter into and take possession of the said iron works of the party of the first part, including all the lands, houses, furnaces, tenements, wagons, teams, tools, &c., and other things thereto belonging, to enable the party of the second part to work the said iron works on their own account, during the existence of this contract: but the exercise of this right by the said Confederate States of America shall not be held or regarded to be a release or extinguishment of the claim of said Confederate States of America for any balance which may be then due by the party of the first part, on account of advances heretofore reserved by them; but the said party of the first part shall be entitled to a credit from said Confederate States of America, during their possession of said property, taken and used as aforesaid, of the annual value of their property; said value to be assessed each year by a board of arbitrators, one of whom shall be selected by each party, and these two to select a third: Provided, however, That should it happen at any time that cars cannot be procured, by reasonable diligence on the part of the party of the first part, for the purpose of delivery, then and in that event, the failure to deliver on the cars shall not be considered a forfeiture of this contract; but the party of the first part is authorized, in the event cars cannot be procured by rea-

sonable diligence, or in the event they are not furnished by the rail road, or by the party of the second part, to store or deposit the iron at or near the point of delivery: Provided, That a seizure of the works of the party of the first part shall be made only after a full investigation of the alleged defalcation of the party of the first part, by an agent duly appointed by the party of the second part, and after a hearing of the defence of the party of the first part.

The party of the second part reserves the right to decide all questions arising under this contract, and to judge of the execution thereof, and also the right to declare the same forfeit, should there be no delivery of iron within ten days from the date hereof; or if at any time hereafter the party of the first part shall fail or refuse to comply with the covenants and agreements herein made.

All payments on account of this contract will be made, when the iron is received and accepted, in treasury notes.

Executed in duplicate, the day and year first above written, by the signature and seal of the said W. L. Sanders, and for and in behalf of the said Confederate States of America, by the signature and seal of I. M. St. John, Lieutenant Colonel and Chief of the Nitre and Mining Bureau aforesaid.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of

V. B. WADDELL, } as to
J. F. SELLERS, }
H. F. REARDON, as to

WM. L. SANDERS. [Seal.]
I. M. ST. JOHN, [Seal.]
Lt. Col. & Ch'f Bur.

Whereas W. L. Sanders did, on the 23d day of March 1863, enter into a contract with the Confederate States of America, through Col. I. M. St. John, for the manufacture of pig iron:

Now, in accordance with said contract, we do hereby appoint A. C. Wurzbach to act for the Confederate States, and D. H. Kenney to act for W. L. Sanders, to assess the prices of pig iron from the 1st of July 1863; which prices are to be fixed until another board of commissioners shall be appointed. Should these two above named commissioners disagree, they shall select an umpire.

(Signed) I. M. ST. JOHN,
Lt. Col. & Ch'f Bur.
(Signed) WM. L. SANDERS.

SELMA, July 1st, 1863.

We, the board of commissioners appointed for the purpose of reviewing the prices of pig iron, and assessing them anew to correspond with the prices of provisions and labor, do, in accordance with the above instructions, assess, for and in the case of Wm. L. Sanders, that he receive for all pig iron to be manufactured and delivered after the 1st of July 1863, $100 for No. 1 C. B. pig iron; $90 for C. B. pig iron No. 2; and $75 for C. B. pig iron No. 3.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. C. WURZBACH,
(Signed) D. H. KENNEY,
Board of Commissioners.

A similar assessment for 1864 fixes the prices as follow:

For No. 1 pig iron, cold blast,	-	-	-	$160 per ton.
2 " "	-	-	-	144 "
3 " "	-	-	-	118 "

[D.]

CONTRACT FOR IRON.

This contract, made this first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, between A. Thomas, of the county of Smyth, State of Virginia, of the first part, and the Confederate States of America, through I. M. St. John, Colonel and Chief of the Nitre and Mining Bureau, of the second part, witnesseth, that in consideration of the conditions herein after named, the party of the first part covenants and agrees to manufacture, at the Marion Magnetic furnace, and deliver to the party of the second part, at Marion depot, on the Virginia and Tennessee rail road, free of cost to the government, one thousand tons of charcoal cold blast pig iron per year, for three years next ensuing. The delivery to commence within twenty (20) days after this contract shall have been duly executed, and to be made in nearly equal quarterly installments—the delivery in no one month, however, to fall below sixty tons.

The iron thus delivered is to be subject to inspection by an officer of the Nitre and Mining Bureau, or an authorized agent thereof, and to be by him weighed and classified as to the quality and grade, according to which payments are to be made. All "pig metal" shall bear the initials of the proprietor, and the name of the furnace stamped upon the pig.

In consideration whereof, the party of the second part agrees to pay to the party of the first part, his agents or assigns, after inspec-

tion, proof and approval of said iron, the following prices, subject to modification and reduction, as herein after provided, to wit:

No. 1 charcoal cold blast pig iron per ton (2,240 lbs.),					$100
2	"	"	"	"	95
3	"	"	"	"	90

The parties hereto mutually reserve the right, during the existing war with the United States, to modify these prices, so as to preserve the same relation between the price of the iron and the cost of articles necessary for its production as is established in the above recited scale; and in order to make such modification with justice to both parties, it is agreed that during the war, when either party shall so desire, a board of assessment shall be convened to review the above scale of prices: Provided, however, That no such board shall, without mutual consent, be convened prior to the month of January 1864, or more frequently thereafter than once in each year.

Said board shall be composed of one member chosen by the party of the first part—of a second, chosen by the party of the second part—and in case of disagreement of these two, of a third, to be chosen by them: and in lieu of the prices above enumerated, the prices assessed by the said board for the different grades of iron shall be paid by the party of the second part, until modified by a subsequent board, or reduced, as herein after provided, by the establishment of peace relations with the United States. Such reduction shall not begin until six months after the close of the existing war.

The original scale of prices above written, subject to the following modification, shall then rule and control the compensation of the party of the first part, viz: Eighty per cent. of the above written prices for the ensuing six months; sixty per cent. thereof for the then next ensuing six months: and fifty per cent. thereof until the thirtieth day of April 1866, when the contract shall expire.

It is hereby expressly agreed by the parties to this instrument, that a reservation of fifteen per cent. will be made upon all payments during the first year; ten per cent. for the second year, and five per cent. for the third year, to secure the fulfillment of this contract.

It is further agreed by the parties to this instrument, that any excess in the quantity of pig iron herein named, which the party of the first part may be able to produce in any year during the continuance of this contract, shall be the property of the government, and will be received and paid for at the prices herein before provided in this contract.

To enable the party of the first part to comply with the letter and spirit of this contract, the party of the second part will authorize transportation over the public rail roads and canals for such provisions as he may deem necessary, and use every effort in his power to protect them against impressment when they shall have been accumulated.

And it is also agreed by the party of the second part, that out of the excess in the quantity of pig iron herein contracted for, the party

of the first part shall have the privilege of retaining for his own use two hundred tons per annum.

The party of the second part reserves the right to decide questions arising under this contract, and to judge of the execution thereof, and also the right to declare the same forfeit, should there be no delivery of iron within thirty days from the date hereof, or if at any time hereafter the party of the first part shall fail or refuse to comply with his covenants and agreements herein made.

All payments on account of this contract will be made when the iron is received and accepted, one-third in bonds of the Confederate States, if desired by the party of the second part, and the residue in treasury notes.

Witness our hands and seals this first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

Witnesses:

ALBERT G. SIMON.
JAMES L. TAYLOR.

ABIJAH THOMAS. [Seal.]
I. M. ST. JOHN, [Seal.]
Col. & Ch'f Bureau.

[*Done in Duplicate.*]

[☞ NOTE.—This is the original form of contract for iron, made by the bureau; by which it will be seen the maximum price was $100 per ton; but by the provisions of the assessment clause (last two paragraphs on first page), the price was at one time increased to $124 per ton; and subsequently, by the provisions of the same clause, to $350 per ton for one-half their yield, granting them the privilege of selling the other half on their own account. This price ruled and controlled the compensation of contractors in Virginia until the beginning of the present year, when they met at this place, and in lieu of asking a further advance, they concluded to ask only that supplies should be furnished them by the government, or that they should have authority to purchase the surplus of farmers at prices not to exceed fifty per cent. advance on those of the government schedule. The latter proposition was accepted, and the present price is $350 per ton for one-half their yield, with this privilege concerning supplies.

JOHN ELLICOTT, *Major.*

[E]

Furnaces worked by Contractors in 1864.

STATE	Number.	Of which			Average cost of provisions, &c.*			Contract price per ton.	REMARKS.
		Destroyed by the enemy.	Suspended under Order 82.	Available for 1865, if supplies can be had.	Cost of meat per lb.	Cost of corn per bus.	Negro hire.		
Virginia, - -	20	10	2	11	$3 00	$12 00	$400 00	$350 00	Three furnaces have been rebuilt. Price assessed by the board of assessment provided by the contract.
North Carolina, -	5	–	–	5	2 25	9 00	400 00	350 00	
South Carolina, -	2	–	–	2	2 25	9 00	400 00	350 00	Details of cost not yet received Prices approximated to those of North Carolina, the works being near the border of that state.
Alabama, - -	10	2	–	8	1 50	4 00	300 00	135 00	Two are now being rebuilt.
Georgia, - -	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	Work of rebuilding suspended until rail road communication is re-established. Prices about those paid in Alabama.
Tennessee, - -	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	350 00	Near the Virginia line. Prices same as Virginia.
Total, -	43	19	2	25					

*Price of supplies is approximated for purposes of comparison.

E—Continued.

Forges worked by Contractors in 1864.

STATE.	Number.	Of which			Cost of provisions.			Contract price per lb.		REMARKS.
		Destroyed by the enemy.	Suspended under Order No. 82.	Available for 1865, if supplies can be had.	Cost of meat per lb.	Cost of corn per bushel.	Negro hire	Blooms.	Hammered iron.	
Virginia, - -	25	2	6	17	$3 00	$12 00	$400 00	32 cts.	46 cts.	Prices assessed by board of assessment provided by the contract.
North Carolina, -	25	-	7	18	2 25	9 00	400 00	35 "	50 "	
Alabama, - -	2	-	-	2	1 50	4 00	500 00	16 "	32 "	
Georgia, - -	0	0	0	0	0 00	0 00	0 00	0	0	
Tennessee, - -	0	0	0	0	0 00	0 00	0 00	0	0	
Total, -	52	2	13	37						

Permalife.
pH 8.5